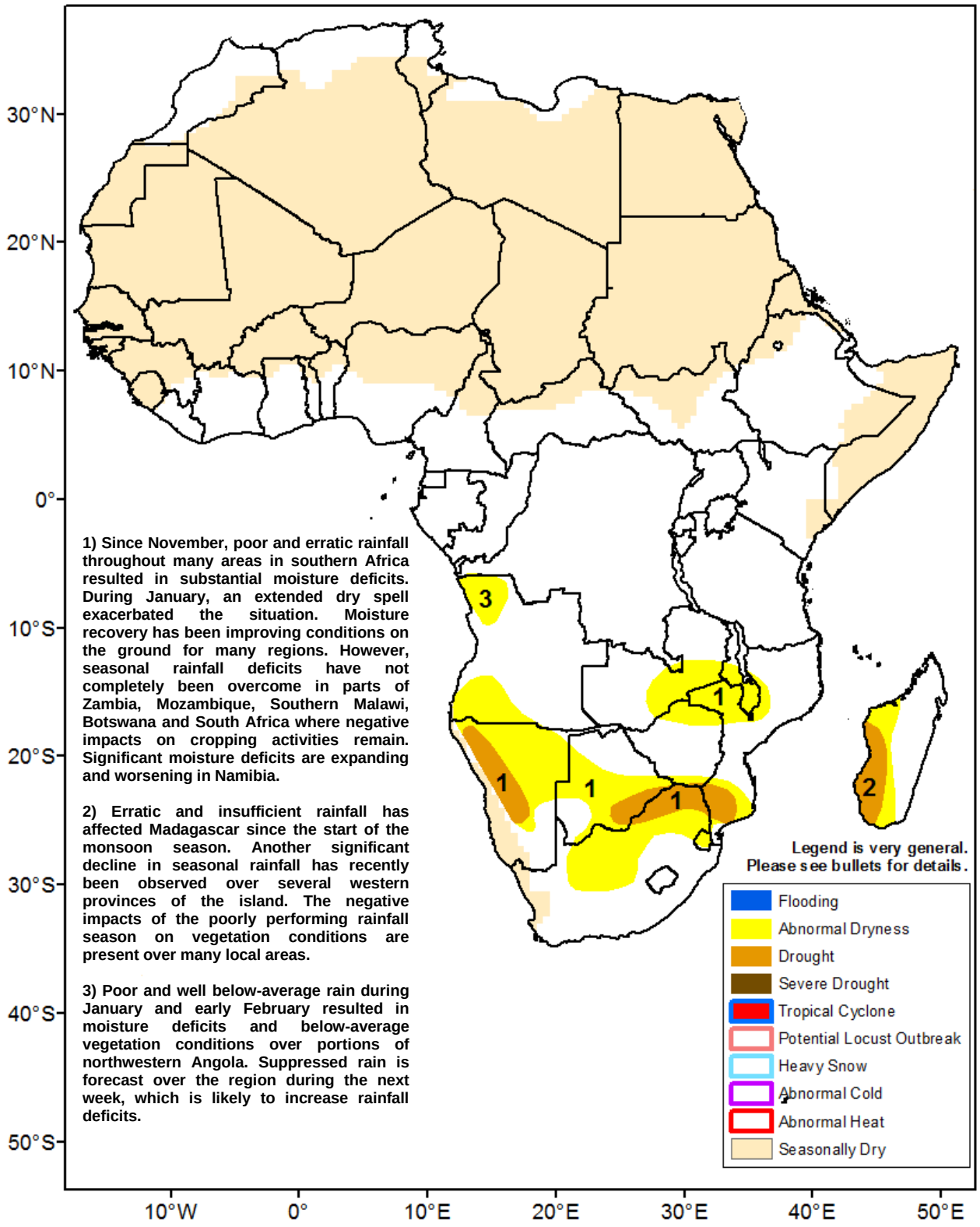
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
March 8 – 14, 2018

- **A recent eastward shift of the rainfall pattern has resulted in strengthening moisture deficits over Namibia.**
- **The negative impacts of earlier, poor rains remained over the grounds of many areas of Southern Africa.**



1) Since November, poor and erratic rainfall throughout many areas in southern Africa resulted in substantial moisture deficits. During January, an extended dry spell exacerbated the situation. Moisture recovery has been improving conditions on the ground for many regions. However, seasonal rainfall deficits have not completely been overcome in parts of Zambia, Mozambique, Southern Malawi, Botswana and South Africa where negative impacts on cropping activities remain. Significant moisture deficits are expanding and worsening in Namibia.

2) Erratic and insufficient rainfall has affected Madagascar since the start of the monsoon season. Another significant decline in seasonal rainfall has recently been observed over several western provinces of the island. The negative impacts of the poorly performing rainfall season on vegetation conditions are present over many local areas.

3) Poor and well below-average rain during January and early February resulted in moisture deficits and below-average vegetation conditions over portions of northwestern Angola. Suppressed rain is forecast over the region during the next week, which is likely to increase rainfall deficits.

Widespread, wet weather pattern observed across the eastern portions of Africa during the past week

From February 28-March 6, a favorable rainfall distribution, with widespread large rainfall amounts, was observed across the eastern and central portions of Southern Africa, including southeastern Angola, Zambia, northern Botswana, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, portions of western and northern Mozambique, and northern Madagascar (**Figure 1**). For some areas such as parts of Zambia and Tanzania, this past week's rainfall totals marked, at least, the second consecutive week with copious rain amounts, which resulted in wetter than average conditions over the region. Farther north, abundant rains also fell over Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia, which likely benefited land preparation and cropping activities for the March-May growing season over many local areas. In contrast, little to light rain was registered over western Angola, eastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, and central South Africa. Elsewhere, suppressed rain was recorded.

Compared to climatology, this past week's cumulative rain was below-average over western Angola, central Namibia, and northeastern South Africa, while it was largely above-average throughout Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, northern Madagascar, and southern Ethiopia.

7-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: February 28 – March 06, 2018

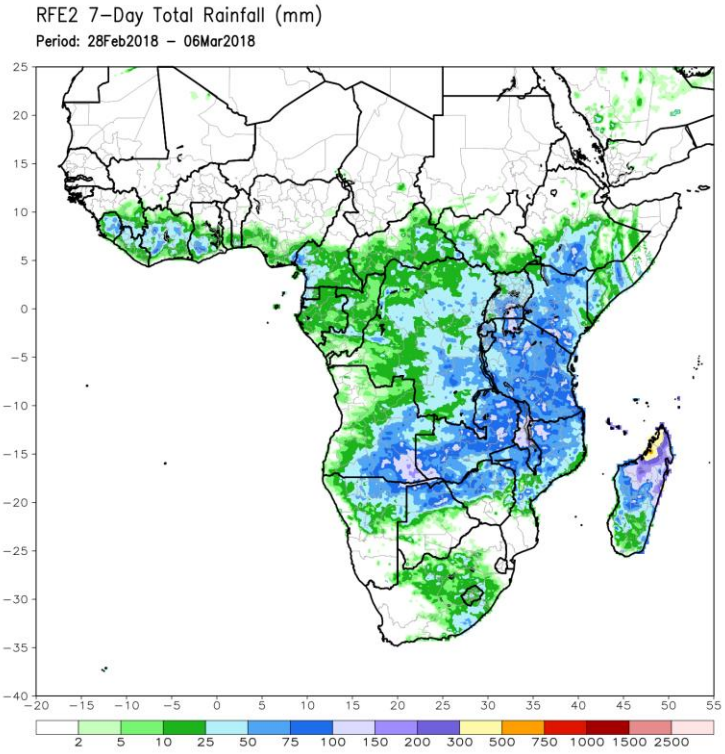


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Rainfall deficits persisted over many areas of Southern Africa.

An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since January 1 to date showed moderate to large (> 50 mm) deficits over northwestern and southern Angola, Namibia, portions of Botswana, South Africa, eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, western Mozambique, and western Madagascar (**Figure 2**). For many areas such as southern Angola, western Namibia, and western Madagascar, the persistent negative rainfall anomalies were attributed to back to back, well below-average rain during January and poor rain during February. In contrast, rainfall surpluses were registered over western Zambia, northeastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, and portions of Mozambique due to a shift in the rainfall pattern to increased and above-average rainfall during February.

As a result of an uneven rainfall distribution since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, vegetation conditions, inferred from remote sensing techniques, exhibited poor and below-average conditions over Namibia, northern and western South Africa, western Mozambique, northern Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, and southwestern Madagascar. Reports have also indicated that the erratic seasonal performance has negatively affected crops over many areas of Southern Africa.

During the next week, widespread, heavy rain is forecast over eastern Zambia, northern Malawi, eastern Tanzania, and northern Madagascar, while suppressed rain is expected over western Angola and western Namibia. Meanwhile, moderate rain is expected over eastern South Africa. Farther north, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over southern Kenya, whereas light rain is expected over northern Kenya, southern and central Ethiopia.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: January 01 – March 06, 2018

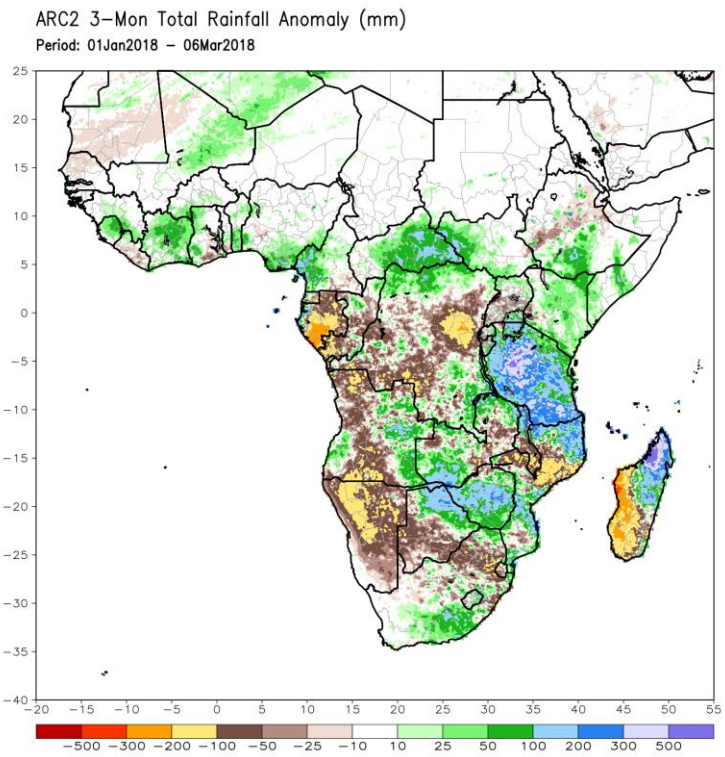


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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